

The genus *Plectromus*, Gill (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., VI, 257) is not sufficiently distinguished, in the description, from *Melamphaës*, Günther; but its smaller number of spines may prove constant and will enable us to separate the two with certainty. The dentition also, concerning which there is some doubt, may be different in *Melamphaës*.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF ASPIDOPHOROIDES (A. GÜNTHERII), FROM ALASKA.

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Capt. M. A. Healy's collection, made during the cruise of the United States revenue cutter Thomas Corwin, 1884, contains four specimens of this new species, the largest of which is 53 millimeters ( $2\frac{1}{10}$  inches) in length. Lieut. G. M. Stoney also obtained a specimen, and as his is larger than any of the others I will make it the type of the description.

The type of the species here described is an example 70 millimeters long (Cat. No. 37032).

This fish does not bear much resemblance to *monopterygius* and *inermis*. The body is very short and is anteriorly very wide and somewhat depressed. The head also is short, triangular, and posteriorly wide. There is also a short barbel at the end of each maxilla. The nasal spines are almost invisible. There are small teeth in the jaws, vomer, and palatines. Along the sides of the head inferiorly are four large mucous pores, each situated in an oblong depression, the largest of which is nearly as long as the snout. The maxillary barbel is scarcely one-half as long as the eye, which is one-third the length of the head and considerably more than the width of the interorbital space. The maxilla does not extend much beyond the anterior margin of the orbit. The mandible is barely included; its length equals that of the eye. The length of the snout equals the width of the interorbital space, which is deeply concave. The greatest depth of the head is not much more than one-half its greatest width. The greatest width of the head over the opercles is contained nearly five times in the total length without caudal, and twice in the distance from the origin of the dorsal to the base of the caudal. The gill-membrane is narrowly attached to the isthmus anteriorly, but the posterior margin is free and the gill-opening is wide. Pseudobranchiae well developed. There is a deep groove extending from the occiput and including about the anterior third of the body. The greatest height of the body is one-sixth of the length without caudal, and the width over the basis of the pectorals is about one-fifth of the same length. The length of the head is contained about  $4\frac{1}{3}$  times in the total length without caudal. The pectoral is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times as long as the ventral and one-fourth of the total length without caudal. The ventral is as

long as the head without the postorbital part. The vent is between the ventrals, but nearer their tips than their origin. The origin of the dorsal is nearly midway of the total, including caudal. The length of the dorsal base is contained about  $6\frac{2}{3}$  times in total length without caudal. The anal is immediately under the dorsal, but its base is not quite so long. The length of the caudal is contained about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  or 6 times in the standard body length. Second dorsal ray is longest, its length about equal to the postorbital part of the head. The longest anal ray is less than one-fourth the length of the head. Lateral line 40. The breast is armed with about 14 plates.

A dark stripe on the snout, and continued behind the eye on the opercle; a few indistinct dark blotches on the side of the head; axillary region dusky. Pectoral with 3 or 4 imperfect cross-bars. Body with 3 indistinct saddle-shaped dusky half bars, the middle one of which extends up on the middle of the dorsal fin. These bars do not extend below the median line of the body. Tail with 2 dusky bars, one anteriorly and the other terminal, the two separated by a dirty yellowish area. General color dusky above, whitish below; this color also present on ventral and anal.

D. 7; A. 7; V. I, 2; C. 10; P. 12.

The ventral of *Aspidophoroides monopterygius* consists also of a short spine and 2 rays. The union of the gill-membrane to the isthmus in *monopterygius* is the same as in *güntherii*. There are vomerine and palatine teeth in *monopterygius*, contrary to the statements of most ichthyologists. The obsolete nasal spines, the maxillary barbels, and the form of the body offer the only characters by which this species might be distinguished from the *monopterygius* type, and we have the *inermis* as a connecting link between *monopterygius* and *güntherii*.

I have named the species for Dr. Albert Günther, of the British Museum, to whose writings and personal kindness I am deeply indebted.

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM,

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## REMARKS ON THE TYPE SPECIMEN OF BUTEO OXYPTERUS, CASSIN.

By ROBERT RIDGWAY.

In "History of North American Birds," vol. iii, pp. 266-268, this bird was referred to *Buteo swainsoni*, Bp., although recognized as representing a local or geographical race under the title of "*Buteo swainsoni*, var. *oxypterus*." The type specimen is there described, and also in a paper published in the "Proceedings" of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences for 1875 (pp. 113, 114), where, however, the "var. *oxypterus*" is not recognized. The type specimen is again specially referred to in Mr. J. H. Gurney's "List of the Diurnal Birds of Prey,"